

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces prior versions:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for managing a plurality of network devices comprising ~~the steps of:~~

setting identification information to ~~a network device by assigning identification information to~~ each network device by ~~means of~~ management equipment;

outputting said identification information visually on said network device; ~~[[and]]~~

indicating the network device with an identifier which is the same as said identification information onto a screen ~~for network device management in~~ of said management equipment~~[[,]]; and~~

displaying said identification information on said network device, if no operation is performed for a predetermined time period when the network device displays a device setting, wherein a user is enabled to assign identification information different from the identification information used in the network~~[[,]]~~

~~wherein the management equipment manages to indicate the identifier only on a network device, which is requested to indicate the identifier.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method for managing a plurality of network devices according to claim 1, wherein said setting step comprises the steps of:

retrieving a database having said identification information related to each network device; and

assigning said identification information automatically to said network device.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method for managing a plurality of network devices according to claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises the step of:

displaying said identification information onto an operation panel of said network device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method for managing a plurality of network devices according to claim 3, wherein said identifier comprises a primary identifier and a secondary identifier respectively includes a color and letter.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A network management system having a plurality of network devices connected to management equipment through a network, said network management system comprises:

said management equipment for ~~assigning identification information to each network device~~ and setting identification information to [[said]] each network device; and

said plurality of network devices for visually outputting said identification information assigned thereto,

wherein said management equipment indicates said network device onto a screen ~~for network device management~~ using an identifier which is the same as said identification information, wherein said identification information is displayed on said network device, if no operation is performed for a predetermined time period when the network device displays a device setting, and wherein a user is enabled to assign identification information different from the identification information used in the network[[,]]

~~wherein the management equipment manages to indicate the identifier only on a network device, which is requested to indicate the identifier.~~

Claim 6 (previously presented): The network device management system according to claim 5, wherein said management equipment retrieves a database having identification information related to each network device for automatically assigning a retrieved identification information to each network device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The network device management system according to claim 5, wherein said network device management system displays said identification information onto an operation panel of said network device.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The network device management system according to claim 5, wherein said network device is a printer and said management equipment is a server.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A network device, comprising:

- a reception unit for receiving identifier information for indicating an identifier identical with an identifier assigned by management equipment and indicated on the management equipment;
- a display unit for visually indicating the received identifier information and for setting the network device,

~~wherein the display unit displays a screen for a device setting at the time of setting the network device, and if no operation is performed within a prescribed time period, for switching to the indication of the identifier~~

wherein a user is enabled to assign identification information different from the identification information used in the network.